

WELCOME EVERYONE



American Printing House has been championing a more open-minded, inclusive world one innovation at a time – since 1858 - from our headquarters right here in Louisville, Kentucky. APH sees the possibility of a world that welcomes everyone and works to level the playing field for those who are blind and low vision. We believe access to the right tools at the right time can change lives.

While our core business is the K-12 educational market, we are also focused on employment, independence, advocacy and technology innovation. APH services and programs through efforts like the APH Connect Center and HIVE reach over one million annual users.

The company employs 341 individuals, 22% of whom identify as disabled.

Of course we print things. Braille embossing, large print text, touch graphics

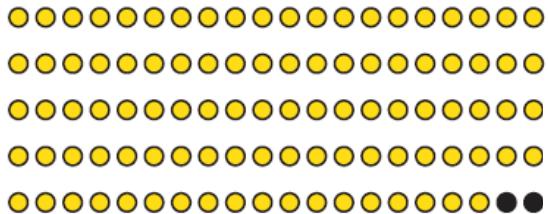
and the like.

We also produce tactile educational materials to support every level and curriculum topic – from shapes and colors, to the lifecycle of a frog or the inner workings of the human body, to astronomy, history, chemistry and everything in between.

We are an internationally networked nonprofit with collaborators in India, Canada, Australia, South Korea, the UK and more. These global alliances and business partnerships help us create innovative assistive technologies and tools, and advance field-wide necessities like a recent win with a revolutionary new electronic braille file standard to be used worldwide. APH led this work which involved players from 17 countries.

Our products are in households and offices too, through our work on daily living products like talking kitchen tools, refreshable braille devices and braille and large print bank statements in collaboration with PNC.

**7 million+
Americans
experience
vision loss**



According to the CDC roughly 89 million individuals in the US are living with a disability and more than 7 million Americans experience vision loss.

Nearly **650,000** of those who are blind or low vision are **under the age of 17**.

APH serves some **75,000** of these students in classrooms across the country through the Federal Quota program which as Phoebe mentioned was established in 1879 to promote the education of the blind.

But it is not just these statistics that drive us. We know that inequities and bias get in the way of these individuals embracing their full potential.

Disabled individuals encounter physical, social, attitudinal, policy and communications- related barriers and bias daily in communities, schools and places of work. Our mission is to change that.

Innovation is at our Core

THE REVIEWED AWARDS: KBIS 2024 —15 WINNING PRODUCTS FOR YOUR KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

See the newest innovations in appliances, plus
everything beautiful for your kitchen, bath, and
yard



Written by Reviewed Staff
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FAST COMPANY

WE MADE
THE LIST!

MOST INNOVATIVE
COMPANIES 2024



Innovation is at our core.

Emerging technology and innovation is playing a huge role these days in disability inclusion. Barriers are being broken down in such significant ways. Think about it. AI, robotics, augmented reality, wearable tech, smart home technologies, telework and telehealth, and more.

APH has been on the forefront of driving innovation since the first mass-produced braille and the early days of talking books. Pushing the boundaries. Legend has it that the producers for Elvis' first record traveled from Nashville to Louisville to learn what they could from the talking book press and production process – then translated that into his first vinyl record.

This past year, APH and GE Appliances won a national Kitchen and Bath Show award for a collaborative effort to design an accessible sticker kit for appliances, and Fast Company named APH to their most innovative companies list.

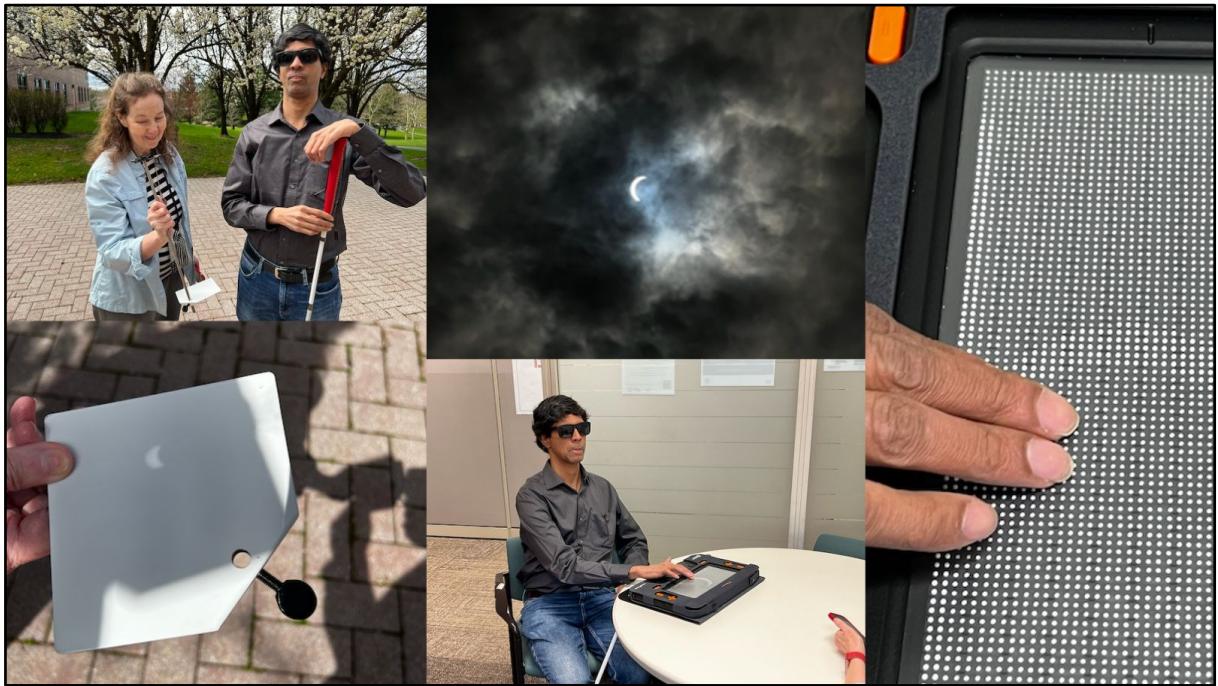
The “Monarch”: a Gamechanger



And another game changing innovation is “the Monarch”. APH is leading the charge on a revolutionary refreshable braille device that will, for the first time ever, display tactile graphics and formatted text on a single multi-line device about the size of a gaming laptop. It is already being sought after and utilized in many settings including k-12 classrooms, colleges, research labs, offices and more.



Imagine being a child and suddenly able to sit side by side with your peers who are working on their laptops, instead of having to trundle to the braille book closet to figure out which of the 47 volumes of your science book the class is working from.



Or being able to participate right along with your friends or colleagues in a global scientific phenomenon like the recent solar eclipse or able to follow in real time the paths of hurricanes heading toward your home.



This single device will – perhaps like the automobile – change the landscape of learning and working for individuals who are blind and low vision forever. Behind the automobile came road systems, traffic cops, service stations, roadside dining, motel/hotel culture and more. We are changing the world, just like Henry Ford did.

The Quest to Create the Most Accessible Museum in the World

The refreshed museum of the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky, is slated to open in 2026 with a novel invitation to visitors: please touch.



We are out in front in a big way. APH has been “doing accessibility” since before “accessibility was cool”. And we never rest or settle. We just keep stretching ourselves in the hopes of stretching others.

So just as the Monarch has launched into the sales pipeline, we are at it again. Setting the standard.

A recently published article in AFAR travel magazine put it this way: we are on a quest to create the most accessible museum in the world. You can find a copy of this article in the folder on your tables.

The Dot Experience



AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE



On the screen is The Dot Experience logo. Here is a sample of visual description:

The name “The Dot Experience” is in black bold letters is stacked with the words “The Dot” above “Experience.” The two lines of type are equal in length. “The” and “Experience” are the same size while the word “Dot,” is larger and more prominent. To the right of the name sits six individually colored circles, two rows of three dots on top of one another, representing a braille cell. A thin black line runs horizontally underneath the both the words and the dots. Below this line, is a black circle in which the letters A, P and H are white and appear like a monogram with the letters conforming to the circle shape. To the right of this circle mark are the words American Printing House.

The Dot Experience name pays homage to APH’s history and commitment to braille, a series of six dots that in combination, form letters, numbers, music, and words, and serve as the code for communication and lifelong literacy. As a new global attraction located in Louisville, The Dot Experience aims to change perspectives about blindness, spur insight and action that welcomes everyone, and lead as a model museum of inclusivity and accessibility.

The attraction is part museum, part center for education and part factory tour and will be open to all including school children, families, tourists, scholars and business leaders. The Dot Experience, as an extension of the long-term work of APH to break barriers, will elevate the lived experience of blind and low vision individuals showing them as fully rounded people who succeed and struggle and who are capable, creative critical thinkers ready-to-work if only our systems will allow them.



The Dot Experience is part of a significant construction effort underway on our Frankfort Ave-facing campus. We have a number of incredible local firms working collaboratively on this innovative project. They include Solid Light, K Norman Berry Associates, PLC Management, Bosse Construction, Swope Design, Sabak Wilson Lingo, Kerr Grulich Engineers, Doe Anderson, Field Trip, and so many more in terms of subs and suppliers and sponsors. And that list keeps growing.

Fifteen distinct building additions of varying sizes and configurations have been completed since the original building was occupied in 1883. This is addition number 16. The original building will be preserved as we renovate and update our office and production facilities and open The Dot Experience in 2026 at about 28,000 square feet – or roughly five times the size of the previous APH museum.

We are creating a new “front door and attraction” for APH, a Model of Inclusivity & Home of the AFB Helen Keller Archives.



Construction is very much underway, with new construction out of the ground and framed in. As you drive by along Frankfort Avenue you can see changes and progress, almost daily.



The Dot Experience is, first and foremost, about people.

Over 20 individuals have been identified and represent a wide spectrum of lived experience related to disability, gender, age, occupation, etc. Cast members will tell their own first-person stories which will drive content and visitor experiences. These will join the stories of several historical persons including Helen Keller and Louis Braille. We also include everyday individuals from our community, APH customers from across the country and staff.

OTHERING

ACCESS VS ACCESSIBILITY

MEDICAL VS SOCIAL MODEL

EQUITY VS EQUALITY



Our project team considers these foundational viewpoints, which can be guideposts for all of us really in our daily lives.

We are working at every step to avoid othering
We are embracing the concept of access for all, versus accessibility add-ons for some. We are viewing our work through a social model lens versus a medical lens where disability is something to be fixed
And we are striving for equity, giving people what they need to be successful, not assuming that everyone needs the same things

And the list goes on:
Intersectionality
Interdependence
Technology and tools
Access to information and opportunities
Reducing stigma and bias

And maybe most importantly – representation. Nothing about us without us.

We have project decision makers, staff, volunteers, consultants, partners, project advisors and focus groups who have various disabilities that are with this project every step of the way.



Including a local inclusive prototyping team working to test and provide feedback – paid for their services for gathering about every six to eight weeks with our exhibit design firm, our marketing firm and others.



We developed an unprecedented and comprehensive set of inclusive design standards that considers many disabilities – blindness, deafness, mobility challenges, neurodiversity, strength and flexibility, cognitive differences and more.

In fact, before visiting and then again upon entry all visitors will be introduced to the many techniques and tools available to everyone at a unique, centrally located “orientation station” in the lobby.



Prototypers are literally evaluating everything.

One dog guide user revealed that our planned flooring strips intended to be part of our wayfinding ecosystem could not be placed where we had originally planned because the dog perceived it as a barrier warning and its instinct was to avoid the exact information panel we were trying to draw individuals close to. By moving the floor indicator back several inches it ended up working precisely as intended to demarcate something of interest to our blind visitors.

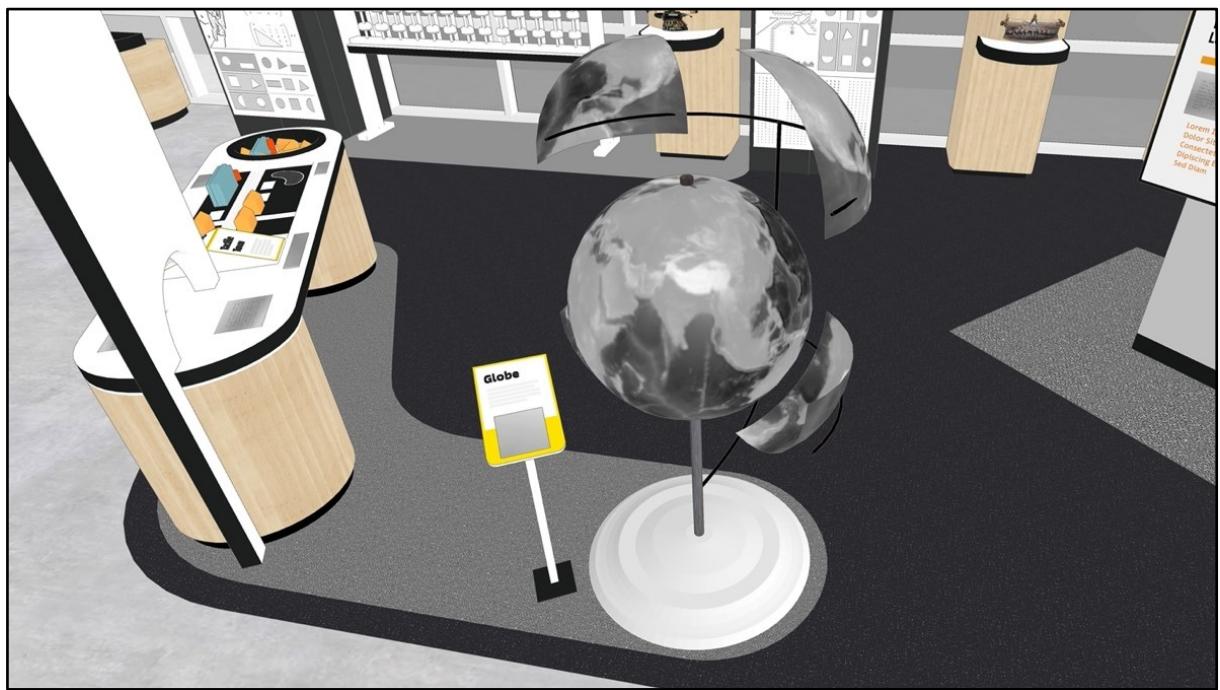
When prototypers tested a replica of Helen Keller's silver scroll holder—a gift from India—it was initially mounted flat. This made it difficult to feel its full dimensions. At their suggestion, the design team remounted it with pins, enabling visitors to put their hands all the way around it. Similarly, the scroll's engraved text was found to be too small to be appreciated by touch, so the replica was reimaged with embossed characters instead. In this iterative process, everyone involved is learning the complexities of creating an inclusive multisensory experience.



The experience will include items of “place” - like textures from the historical structures that will be lifted into tactile replicas for visitors to touch



"product" – such as this oversized version of our best-of-Kentucky runner up product, Tactile Town, which teaches orientation and mobility.



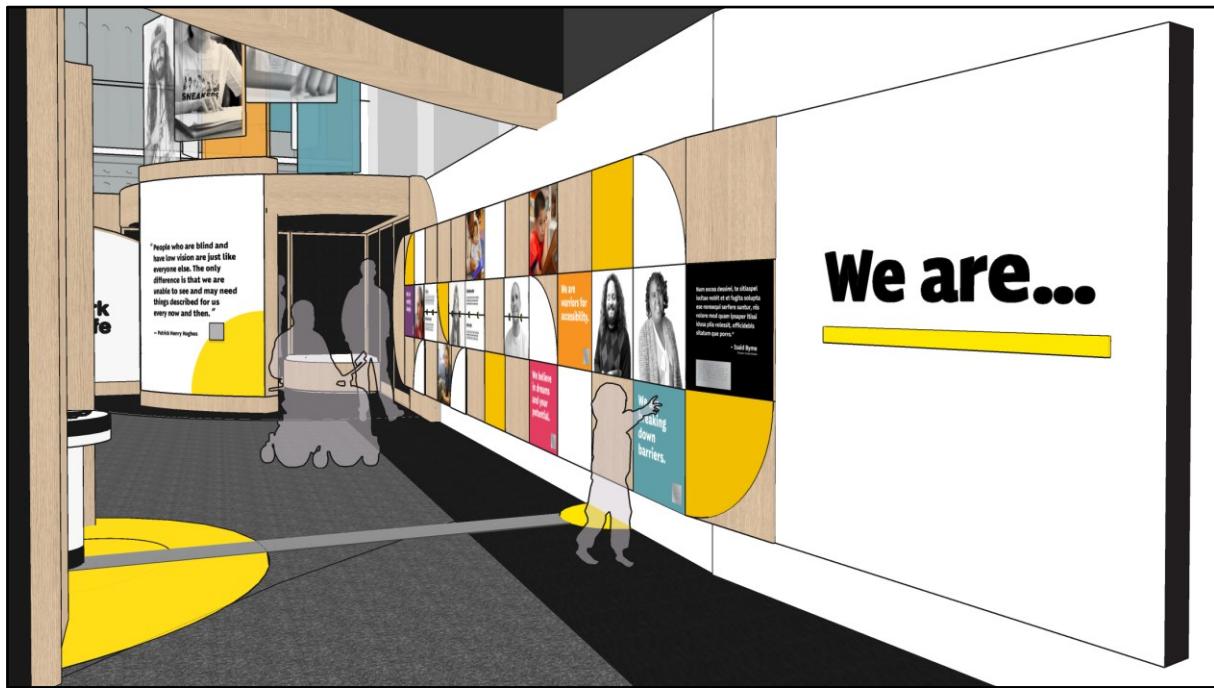
"process" – a historical 30" tactile globe with its molding plates positioned as a sculptural armature



“primary source objects” – like Jose Feliciano’s guitar and the piano Stevie Wonder played on as a child when he attended Michigan School for the Blind



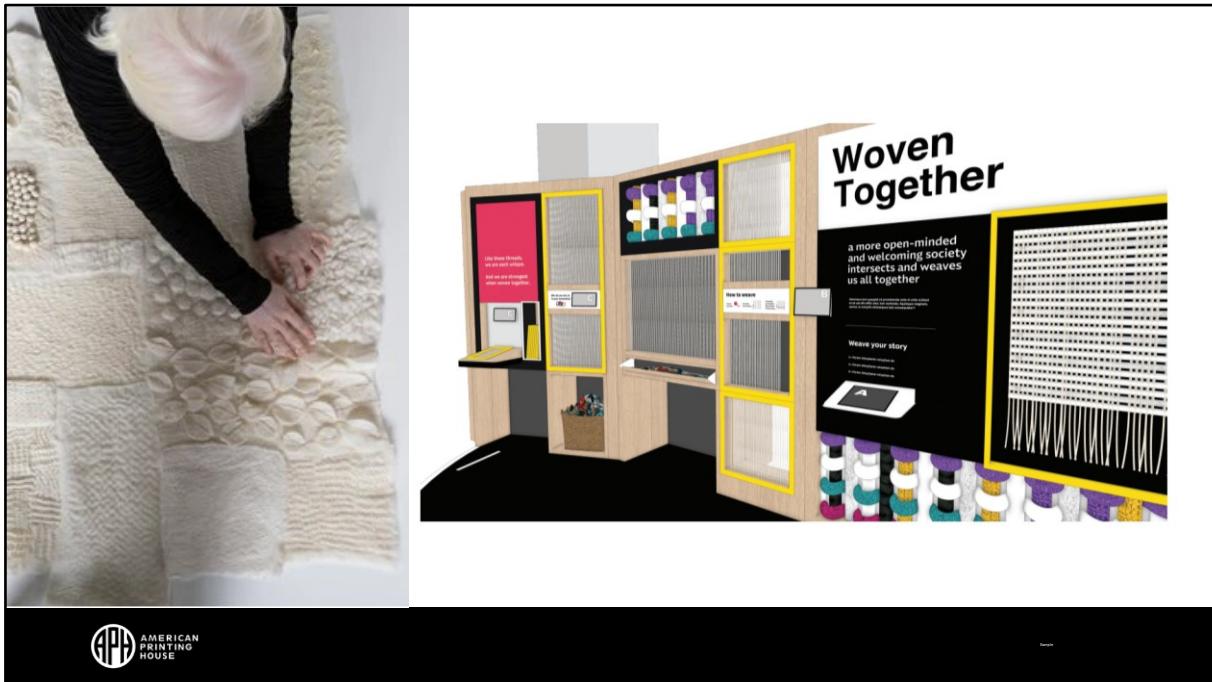
And “people” – such as Denna Lambert, NASA employee, here being interviewed by the Solid Light team last year



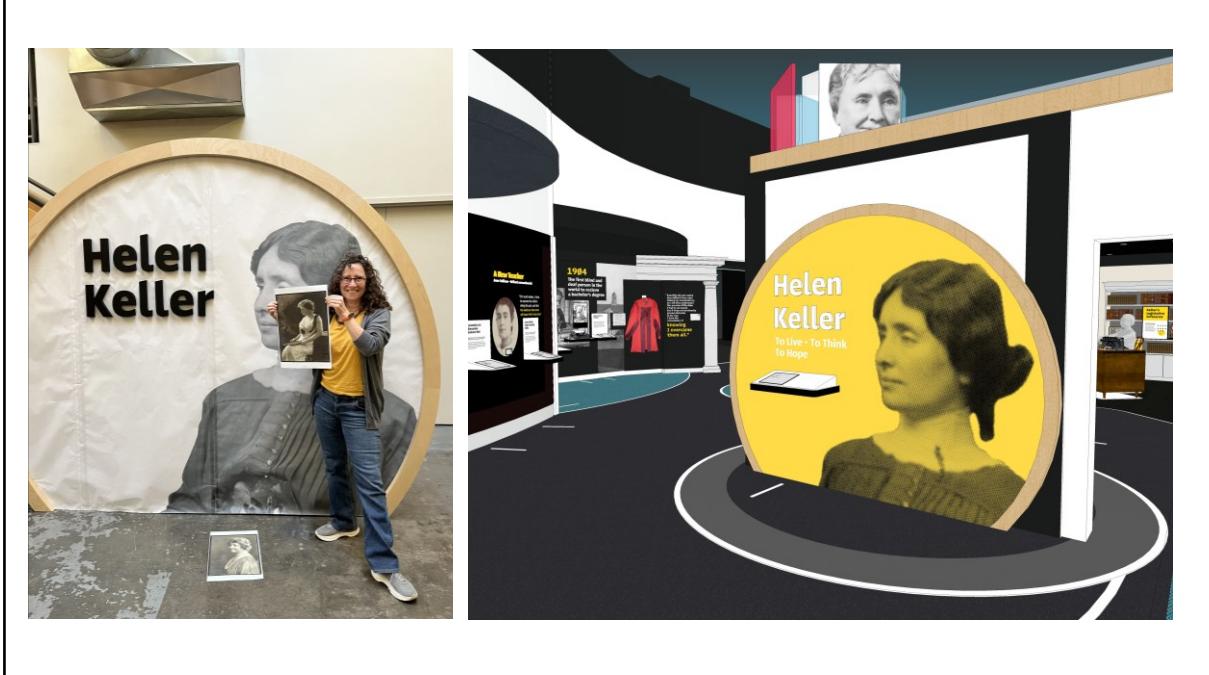
The first gallery addresses the humanity and lived experiences of people who are blind or low vision



Through stories of work, life, navigation, advocacy



and creative expression



In a second gallery you will meet Helen Keller.

The American Foundation for the Blind Helen Keller Archive is under the care of APH, and will be a preeminent part of The Dot Experience.

One of the most unique approaches is that we are not telling you Helen's story.....we are letting Helen tell her own story. Helen's words will ring fully through this experience.

We'll meet Helen's parents and teacher, learn about her educational journey and struggles, are with her as she begins finding her voice and then developing into a national and global change maker.



It will feature the iconic water pump at Ivy Green, Helen's home, and the moment when Annie was able to unlock letters and words in Helen's mind. This area also poses visitors the question, what are your “water pump moments”?



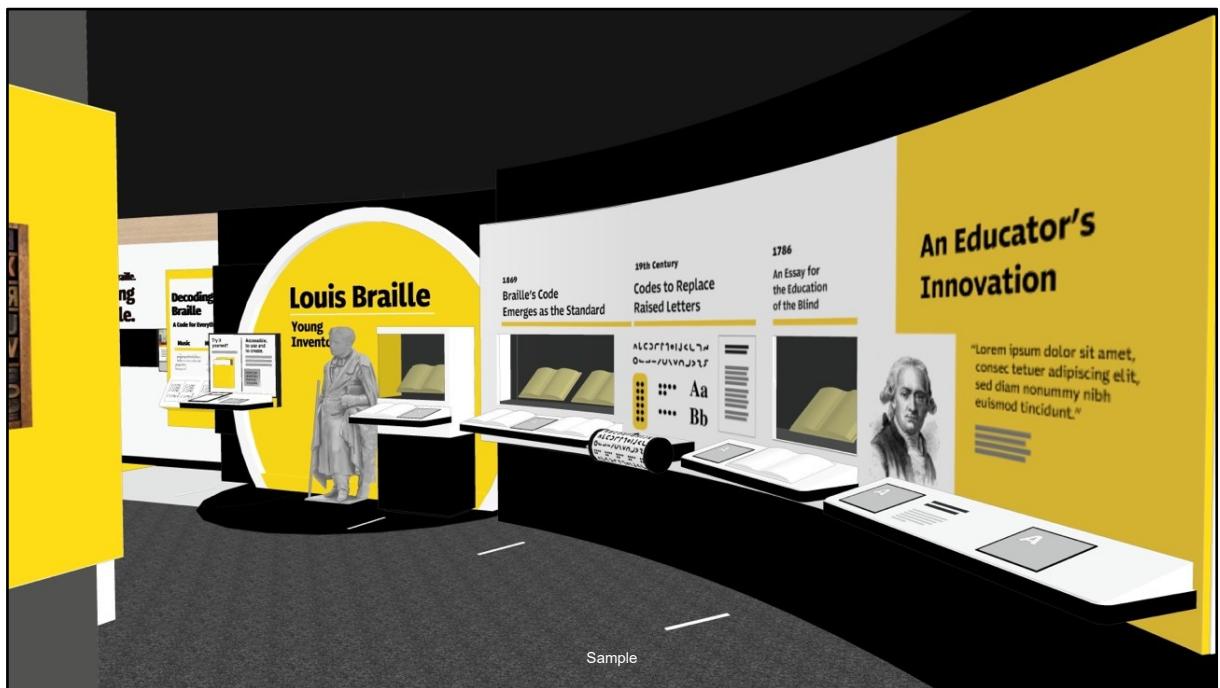
Helen Keller's coming of age was a time when she awakened to a world of injustice, and even as a woman, even when she was admonished, spoke out anyway of the suffering of people. She developed as a human rights activist, not just a blind rights activist.



Visitors can gather around Helen's desk from her home office at Arcane Ridge and explore many personal effects from her tours abroad as a US ambassador for global goodwill, peace and equity.



Innovation is a theme that will thread through The Dot Experience but be especially visible here at the entry of the final gallery.



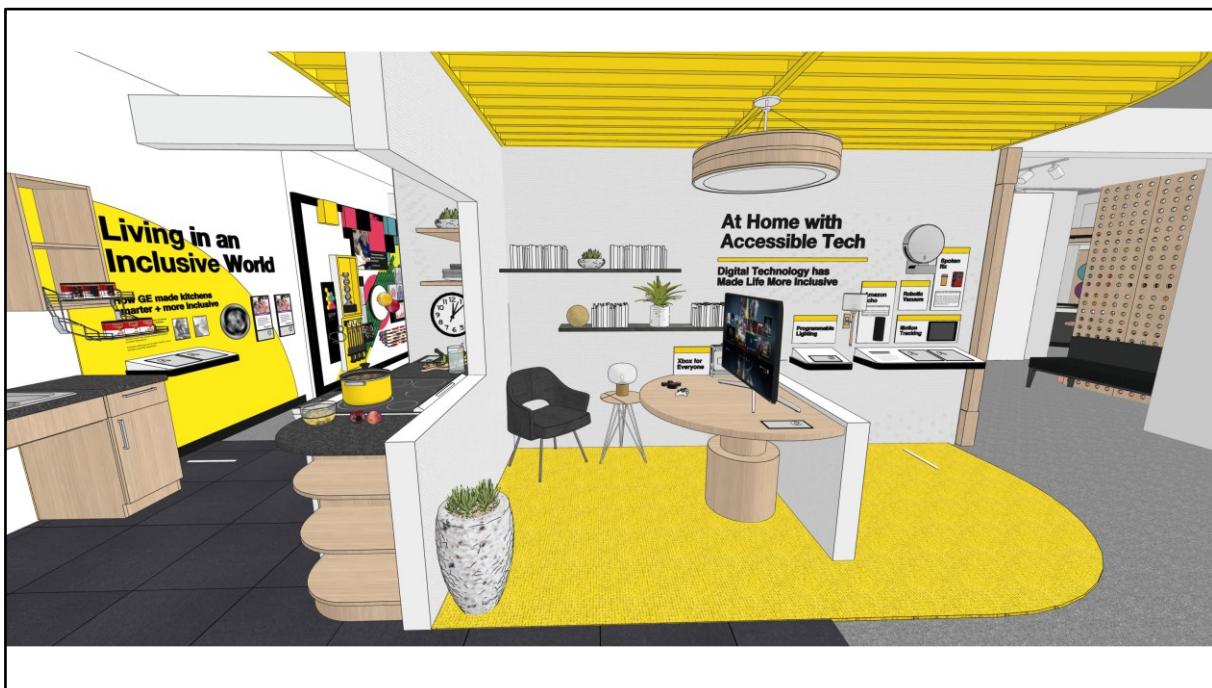
Throughout this gallery visitors will be introduced to young inventor Louis Braille,



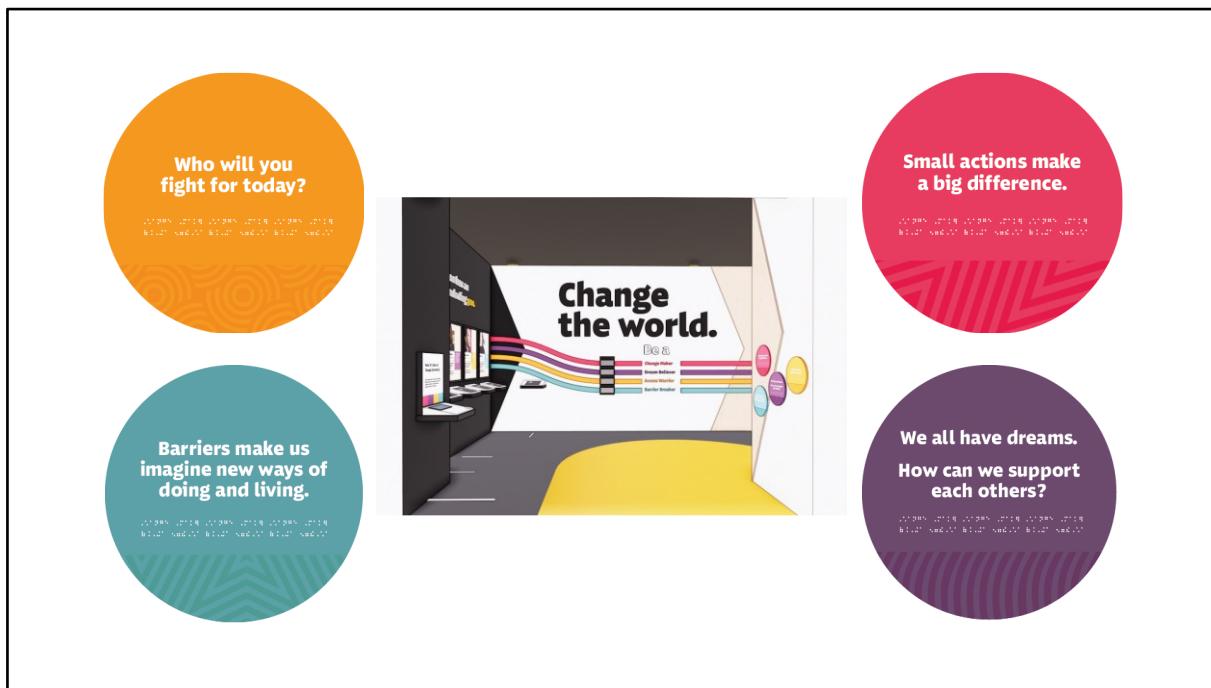
the journey of braille through production, automation, and education,



The story of APH innovations including Low vision devices, Talking Books and Educational aids for the classroom



And finally a space that showcases the many ways companies are working to think with an inclusive design mindset in creating products that serve the needs of more people.



Change comes in all shapes and sizes and is embraced uniquely by each of us.

Dream Believers have dreams, visions and aspirations of what they want to achieve. Dream Believers embrace big ideas.

Barrier Breakers pave a new way, break down barriers and actively work to create a more inclusive world for all. Barrier Breakers are energetic innovators.

Change Makers are those with the power to make change happen now. Change Makers identify problems, envision and implement solutions, and challenge the status quo.

Access Warriors are in the trenches, fighting for accessibility and ensuring a level playing field. Access Warriors are driven by a commitment to justice and inclusivity.



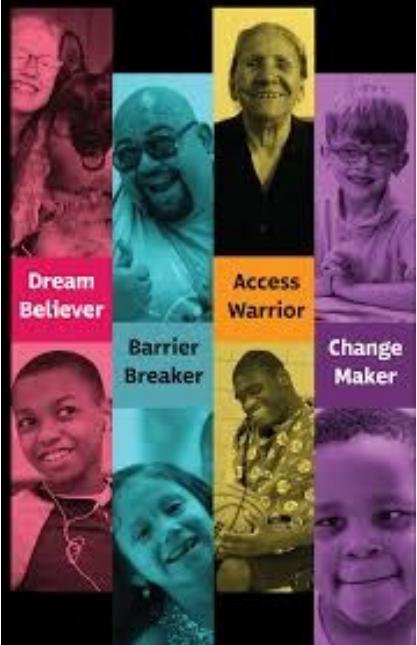
We are changing the world and catching the eye of pretty much everyone these days.

On purpose.

As we said recently to Taryn Mackenzie Williams, who leads the [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#) as the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, and to Congressman Morgan McGarvey

– and to the countless individuals who have toured our place recently, having never been there or really understood who APH is or what we do, or how long we have done this work

–
we thank you for being advocates for change along with us. And we invite you on this incredible journey to truly see people, all people, for who they are and what they can do.



You Can Change the World

Microsoft tools

Try TV/movie visual descriptions

Clear pathways & predictable layout

High contrast design

Evaluate media

Follow disabled content providers

Recess audit

Digital accessibility standards

Ask first

Materials in advance

Yep. You can change the world. Join us.

Learn about and use the accessibility features offered in Microsoft – so that those who use screen readers to access email, presentations and spreadsheets can do so successfully

Turn on the visual descriptions while watching a TV show – great example is All the Light we Cannot See mini series on Netflix. Close your eyes through one or more episodes.

Notice othering and bias and discrimination in media and discuss it at your family dinner table.

Follow disabled content providers on LinkedIn, Tik Tock, Instagram, etc.

Clear pathways and keep them consistent.

Be mindful of using high contrast design.

Send out meeting materials in advance.

Come take a tour of APH.....



WE WELCOME EVERYONE

Because we welcome everyone.